

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2634

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJ: ARREST OF DUTCH MEDICAL WORKER

REF: STATE 288748

1. ACCORDING TO NETHERLANDS CHARGE, ARRESTED DUTCH MEDICAL WORKER IS STILL ALIVE AND IN PRISON NEAR BAGHDAD. HE CORRECT NAME IS LEENDET ARONSEN AKA ALEXANDER HARUN.

2. IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED DUTCH CHARGE PERMISSION TO VISIT ARONSEN ON GROUNDS THAT ARONSEN IS AN ISRAELI RATHER THAN DUTCH NATIONAL. ACCORDING TO IRAQI AUTHORITIES HE WAS CARRYING AN ISRAELI PASSPORT WHEN ARRESTED IN IRAQI KURDISTAN. CHARGE SAYS ARONSEN WAS ISSUED A DUTCH PASSPORT AND IS CONSIDERED BY NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO BE A DUTCH NATIONAL. HE IS JEWISH AND LIVED IN ISRAEL FOR APERIOD OF TIME. HE WAS BORN IN HOLLAND AND SPENT TWO YEARS IN A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP WHEN HE WAS EIGHT TO TEN YEARS OLD.

3. NETHERLANDS' GOVERNMENT HAS OBTAINED COPY OF REPORT ARONSEN SENT FROM IRAQ TO A DR. NABARRO OF THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION IN ENGLAND. IN THIS REPORT ARONSEN MADE REASONABLY FACTUAL ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH CONDITIONS IN KURDISH AREAS OF IRAQ AND MADE STATEMENTS OF MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH WERE PASSED THROUGH DR. NABARRO TO THE KURDISH RESCUE SOCIETY. A COPY OF THIS REPORT WAS LATER TURNED OVER TO THE

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IRAQI CHARGE IN THE HAGUE BY A NEWSMAN. A LATER VERSION OF THE

REPORT WAS FOUND ON ARONSEN WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED AND THE GOI APPARENTLY CONSIDERS THE REPORT AS EVIDENCE THAT ARONSEN WAS ENGAGING IN ESPIONAGE.

4. FYI DUTCH CHARGE SAID ARONSEN HAD RECORD OF BIZARRE BEHAVIOR WHICH MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIS EARLY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF DRUGS AND FIREARMS IN IRAN AND RELEASED AFTER INTERVENTION OF DUTCH EMBASSY. AT LATER TIME HE ADOPTED A CHILD IN BANGLADESH WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY ABANDONED AT DUTCH EMBASSY IN TEHRAN WITH REQUEST THAT EMBASSY "TAKE CARE OF CHILD" WHILE HE TRAVELLED TO KURDISTAN. DUTCH EMBASSY TEHRAN SUBSEQUENTLY REPATRIATED CHILD TO HOLLAND. CHARGE ALSO EXPRESSED PERSONEL VIEW THAT IF IT TRUE THAT ARONSEN WAS CARRYING ISRAELI PASSPORT WHILE TRAVELLING IN IRAQI KURDISTAN AND TAKING NOTES ON CONDITIONS IN AREA, THIS, IN ITSELF, IS EVIDENCE OF MENTAL IMBALANCE.

5. CHARGE WAS GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC GOI HAD ACCEPTED HIS ARGUMENTS THAT ARONSEN WAS MENTALLY IMBALANCED RATHER THAN A PROFESSIONAL SPY AND HAD HOPES THAT ARONSEN WOULD NOT NOW BE EXECUTED. HE BELIEVES THAT THERE MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ARONSEN'S RELEASE AND REPATRIATION AT SOME LATER DATE IF GOI DECIDES SOMEDAY THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A POLITICAL GESTURE TOWARDS THE NETHERLANDS.

WILEY

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